

# **WORK-RELATED INJURIES AND ILLNESSES**

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

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## **NOTES**

- For more information about these and related statistics, contact Tracey Brandrup on Darwin (08) 8943 2152 or refer to the back cover of this publication.

## NOTES

### PLEASE NOTE

This publication contains results relating to the Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses Survey conducted throughout the urban areas of the Northern Territory in October 1997. Residents of dwellings in remote and sparsely settled parts of the Northern Territory were excluded from this survey. See paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Explanatory Notes for a full description of the scope of the survey.

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- \* relative standard error of 25% to 50%
- \*\* relative standard error over 50%
- nil or rounded to zero

### INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

For further information about these statistics, contact Tracey Brandrup on (08) 8943 2152.

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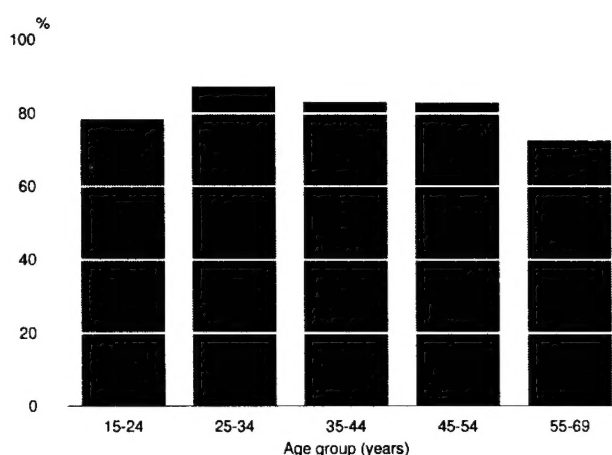
## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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### WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE

In October 1997 64,887 workers (82%) aged 15 to 69 years thought they were covered by workers' compensation. Males were slightly less likely than females to believe they were covered (81% compared with 84%). Workers aged 55–69 years and 15–24 years were least likely to think they were covered by workers' compensation (73% and 79% respectively) while workers aged 25–34 years were most likely to think they were covered (87%).

### PERSONS COVERED BY WORKERS' COMPENSATION



A majority of workers who thought they were covered by workers' compensation obtained their knowledge about workers' compensation through 'common knowledge' (50%) or employer seminars/discussions (47%).

More than half (34,728 or 54%) of workers who thought they were covered by workers' compensation thought that they were covered by the NT Work Health Act scheme while one-third (21,844 or 34%) did not know which workers' compensation scheme applied.

### INJURIES AND ILLNESSES

In the last 12 months 8,946 workers (11%) suffered a work-related injury or illness. Males were more likely to suffer a work-related injury or illness than females (13% compared with 8%).

# 1

## COVERAGE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION BY AGE AND SEX (a)

	Covered.....		Not covered.....		Don't know/not sure.....		Total.....	
Age group (years)	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>MALES</b>								
15-24	7 159	81.0	**	**	*1 310	*14.8	8 833	100.0
25-34	7 718	80.9	*1 260	*13.2	*563	*5.9	9 541	100.0
35-44	9 260	83.7	*1 217	*11.0	*583	*5.3	11 060	100.0
45-54	7 657	81.5	1 525	16.2	**	**	9 393	100.0
55-69	2 174	70.7	*900	*29.3	—	—	3 074	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33 969</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>5 267</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>2 667</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>41 902</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>								
15-24	6 350	75.8	**	**	1 619	19.3	8 374	100.0
25-34	9 183	93.4	**	**	**	**	9 834	100.0
35-44	7 890	82.2	*1 133	*11.8	*581	*6.1	9 604	100.0
45-54	6 212	84.7	*918	*12.5	**	**	7 335	100.0
55-69	*1 284	*75.7	*412	*24.3	—	—	1 696	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 918</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>3 208</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>2 716</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>36 843</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>								
15-24	13 509	78.5	*770	*4.5	2 929	17.0	17 207	100.0
25-34	16 902	87.2	1 600	8.3	*873	*4.5	19 376	100.0
35-44	17 149	83.0	2 350	11.4	*1 165	*5.6	20 664	100.0
45-54	13 869	82.9	2 443	14.6	*417	*2.5	16 729	100.0
55-69	3 458	72.5	*1 312	*27.5	—	—	4 770	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>64 887</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>8 475</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>5 383</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>78 745</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Persons aged 15-69 years who were employed in October 1997.

# 2

## SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION (a)

	Males.....		Females.....		Persons.....	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Work Health Authority	2 220	6.5	1 664	5.4	3 885	6.0
Employer seminars/discussions	16 532	48.7	14 176	45.8	30 707	47.3
Made/making a claim	*1 007	*3.0	*655	*2.1	1 662	2.6
Workers union	*1 119	*3.3	*1 294	*4.2	2 413	3.7
Brochures, posters, reading materials, internal memos	4 207	12.4	4 913	15.9	9 120	14.1
The media	*737	*2.2	*440	*1.4	*1 177	*1.8
Common knowledge	16 723	49.2	15 386	49.8	32 109	49.5
Part of the job	*874	*2.6	*623	*2.0	1 496	2.3
Work contract	1 472	4.3	*757	*2.4	2 229	3.4
Other	2 263	6.7	*804	*2.6	3 068	4.7
Don't know/can't remember	**	**	*1 332	*4.3	1 546	2.4
<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>33 969</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30 918</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>64 887</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Persons aged 15-69 years who were employed in October 1997 and thought they were covered by workers' compensation.

(b) Persons may have reported more than one source, therefore components do not add to totals.

### 3

#### NAME OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION SCHEME THOUGHT TO BE COVERED BY (a)

<i>Name of scheme</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
NT Work Health Act	34 728	53.5
Comcare	4 924	7.6
Employer's own	*1 032	*1.6
Other	2 359	3.6
Don't know	21 844	33.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>64 887</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Persons aged 15–69 years who were employed in October 1997 and thought they were covered by workers' compensation.

### 4

#### WORK-RELATED INJURIES AND ILLNESSES IN LAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX (a)

	<i>Males.....</i>		<i>Females.....</i>		<i>Persons.....</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Suffered injury or illness	5 776	12.8	3 170	8.1	8 946	10.6
Did not suffer injury or illness	39 405	87.2	35 905	91.9	75 310	89.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>45 181</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>39 075</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>84 256</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Persons aged 15–69 who were employed in October 1997 or had been employed in the previous 12 months.

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

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## INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication summarises the results of a survey of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses. It was conducted throughout the Northern Territory during October 1997 as a supplement to the Australia-wide Monthly Population Survey (MPS) (which is described in *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

**2** Information was collected from individuals about their awareness of coverage by workers' compensation and awareness of employer initiatives to improve occupational health and safety in the workplace. Respondents who had experienced or first became aware of a work-related injury or illness in the last 12 months were asked details of their most recent injury or illness and the impact of the most recent injury or illness on their work. In addition to the demographic information obtained as part of the MPS, language spoken at home was asked.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

**3** The survey was conducted using a full cluster urban sample of approximately 650 private dwellings. The MPS was conducted during the two weeks commencing 6 October 1997.

## SCOPE

**4** The survey was conducted for persons aged between 15 and 69 years who were employed at some time in the last 12 months and were usual residents of private dwellings except:

- members of permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia; and
- residents of dwellings in remote and sparsely settled parts of the Northern Territory. These residents represent about 20% of the Northern Territory's population.

**5** Residents of non-private dwellings (such as hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, hostels and jails) were excluded from this survey.

## COVERAGE

**6** For the survey, coverage rules were applied which aimed to ensure that each person was associated with only one dwelling and hence had only one chance of selection in the survey. Work-related injuries and illnesses questionnaires were asked of all persons within the scope of the survey.

## DEFINITIONS

**7** A *work-related injury* is any injury suffered from accidents while on work duty. This includes injuries resulting from accidents at the place of work, during work breaks or outside the place of work but while on work duty. Injuries which occur due to accidents while commuting to and from work or during work breaks while outside the place of work are included for Commonwealth employees only.

**8** A *work-related illness* is any illness contracted due to, or aggravated by, work such as industrial deafness, repetitive strain injury, hernia, skin diseases, etc.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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**9** *Workers' compensation* refers to the right of workers to seek compensation from their employers for work-related injuries or illnesses. The survey obtained the workers' own perceptions as to whether they were covered by workers' compensation. It is possible that there may be differences in actual workers' compensation rights and the views of the workers themselves.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**10** Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

*Population Survey Monitor, Australia* (4103.0) (quarterly)

*Work Related Injuries and Illnesses, New South Wales* (6301.1) (October 1993)

*Work Related Injuries and Illnesses, South Australia* (6301.4) (October 1996)

### UNPUBLISHED DATA

In some cases, additional unpublished cross-classifications of data items are available. A charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to Tracey Brandrup on (08) 8943 2152.

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